

9 March 2009

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
U.S. House of Representatives
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Baldwin:

I am pleased to convey to you Sand County Foundation's appropriations request for Fiscal Year 2010.

As you know, by lowering nutrient loss from agriculture we can alleviate many water quality problems. Nutrient losses threaten drinking water in the Midwest, contribute to hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico and degrade aquatic habitats all along the way. Sand County Foundation is developing effective techniques to address non-point source pollution, one of the greatest environmental challenges we face today.

This request is to support continued Wisconsin leadership to design, deploy, measure and evaluate innovative farmer-friendly conservation approaches to produce a higher "environmental return on investment" than conventional delivery strategies. Approval of this request will allow Sand County Foundation to continue the work of our Agricultural Incentives project. This is based on market-based incentives to farmers and lays groundwork for other conservation programs based on performance. Project activities and the partnerships they engender put Sand County Foundation in the position of being able to advance national conservation policy towards actual, measurable improvements in environmental quality.

Like all projects that attempt to assess modifications to ecological processes, the Agricultural Incentives project requires a period of several years in order to generate data reliable enough to be used by the farm, conservation, academic and policymaking communities. We understand the difficulty this presents in the context of a Congressional appropriations process that operates on an annual basis. Your leadership and support for Sand County Foundation's conservation work initiated in Wisconsin is greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have about the attached request.

Very sincerely yours,



Brent M. Haglund, Ph.D.
President

Enclosed